

## Ruth Kirby KC

'Ruth is a force of nature. She quickly grasps the most complex matters – absorbing the paperwork like a sponge. She goes the extra mile in court to pursue points for her clients, and her advocacy is slick, persuasive and, when needed, fiery.'

Legal 500, 2024

### Experience

Year of Call: 1994

Year of Silk: 2021

### Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

### Dispute Resolution

- Arbitration
- Collaborative Law
- Mediation
- Private FDR and Early Neutral Evaluation

### Education

University College Cork, Ireland BCL

London School of Economics, LLM

London Metropolitan University, CPE

Inns of Court School of Law, BL

BL (Irl) Kings Inns, Dublin 2004

DeMontford University (Sports Law) 2014

Qualified Family and Commercial Mediator (2004)

Qualified Collaborative Lawyer

Qualified Arbitrator (2022)

### Languages

Working knowledge of French and Irish



## Profile

Ruth's practice is primarily in children and Court of Protection work. She also undertakes sports law cases and disciplinary tribunal work including advising stars of the rugby world. The unusual breadth of her practice is reflected in the variety of her reported cases. The bulk of her work, including Court of Protection, was for many years primarily in the Family Division.

Ruth deals with all aspects of private and public family law – both domestic and international – including:

- Abduction and other unlawful movement of children and adults;
- wardship and Inherent Jurisdiction cases ( publicity/privacy cases and stranded spouses);
- complex disputes concerning children and vulnerable adults;
- complex care proceedings.

Ruth has particular experience in representing high profile families and individuals and of representing very religiously-observant families and families embroiled in political and cross-jurisdictional issues, sometimes with their own Governments.

Ruth is known for being a good judge of when cases can be settled without ever entering a court room but still achieving optimum results; and when to achieve the best outcome for children by fighting proportionately and fairly, whenever court is unavoidable.

Ruth is dual qualified in the Irish Republic and has rights of audience before the Irish courts. She also is instructed as an expert witness in Irish and European family law cases.

Ruth has lectured for the London Safeguarding Children's Board, the Counter Terrorism Unit at the Met Police (SO15), Gresham College; and the Family Law Bar Association. Her academic lecturing included five years as a lecturer in human rights at the University of London and lecturing at LSE and other academic institutions. She has also trained the Irish Judiciary on diversity and ethnic issues and trains students and junior barristers in advocacy at Middle Temple.

Outside work Ruth enjoys spinning, film, wine, music, family and is more than a little fanatical about rugby generally and Munster in particular.

## Memberships

FLBA

ALC

COPBA

ALBA

Bencher for Middle Temple, Inn of Court

## Directories

'Ruth is a force of nature. She quickly grasps the most complex matters – absorbing the paperwork like a sponge. She goes the extra mile in court to pursue points for her clients, and her advocacy is slick, persuasive and, when needed, fiery.'

**Legal 500, 2024**

"Ruth is the best advocate I have ever worked with and she is great with clients. She works exceptionally

hard and, no matter what her schedule, she will always make time for you.”

**Chambers and Partners, 2024**

“A joy to instruct as she really gets stuck in and makes her arguments forcefully. Every point she makes, she just builds and builds upon to create a compelling submission.”

**Chambers and Partners, 2023**

‘Ruth is a force of nature and an incredible strategist. Her advocacy style is punchy, considered and direct, and she never left a stone unturned.’

**Legal 500, 2023**

“A good fighter who is powerful in the courtroom and empathetic towards clients.” “She articulates powerful arguments in a persuasive manner. She is 100% ready to deal with the pressures presented in cases, and has the ability to think two steps ahead.” “Ruth has a natural, easy rapport with clients which puts them at ease.”

**Chambers & Partners, 2022**

“A formidable advocate who provides punchy thinking, she deserves her elevation to silk this year.”

**Legal 500, 2022**

Experienced family and Court of Protection practitioner who has expertise in sensitive matters. She is praised for the strength of her advocacy and for the tenacity she shows on behalf of her clients in court. Her expertise includes the representation of very high-profile families, and she is proficient in cases concerning international issues.

Strengths: “Holds her own in complex cases and fights her client’s corner. She wants to achieve the best result for the children involved in the case.” “Concentrates on the bigger points and puts her whole heart into both legal aid and private cases.”

Recent work: Represented a father during High Court proceedings in his mission to retrieve his children who had been abducted from London to Ukraine by their mother, the daughter of a high-profile Ukrainian politician and entrepreneur.

**Chambers & Partners, 2021**

‘Is a QC in disguise as a junior. She works relentlessly hard on her cases, and fights her clients’ corner. She is unique in her approach in children matters and takes no prisoners. She is creative at coming up with solutions and strategies for complex cases and never switches off from cases.’

**Legal 500, 2021**

Experienced family and Court of Protection practitioner who has expertise in sensitive matters. She is praised for the strength of her advocacy and for the tenacity she shows on behalf of her clients in court. Her expertise includes the representation of very high-profile families, and she is proficient in cases concerning international issues.

“Clients love her warmth, personality and grit.”

**Chambers & Partners 2020**

‘Is a tenacious advocate who fights hard for clients.’

**Legal 500, 2020**

“A real fighter and a feisty advocate, who is someone you’d want on your side in court.” “She is

exceptionally bright and very on the ball.”

**Chambers & Partners 2019**

‘Superbly prepared.’

**Legal 500, 2019**

“She fights her client’s corner really hard, distils the most important issues and knows what the judge is looking for. She’s very, very quick on her feet and so well experienced that she knows what to push for.”

**Chambers & Partners 2018**

“Quick on her feet and fantastic at client care. She’s always best in a fight; she sees the client’s interests and goes for it.”

**Chambers & Partners 2017**

## Cases

07/12/2023	G (Children) (Supervised Contact)	Ruth Kirby KC Charlotte Baker Alex Verdan KC Frankie Shama	[2023] EWCA Civ 1453
06/12/2023	C v M (A Child) (Abduction: Representation of Child Party)	Ruth Kirby KC Adele Cameron-Douglas Miriam Best Mark Jarman KC Mani Singh Basi Christopher Hames KC Indu Kumar Charlotte Baker Deirdre Fottrell KC Henry Setright KC Harry Langford	[2023] EWCA Civ 1449
18/05/2023	C v M & Anor	Ruth Kirby KC Mark Jarman KC Mani Singh Basi Charlotte Baker Adele Cameron-Douglas	[2023] EWHC 1182 (Fam)
02/02/2022	Re KM (A Child) (Jurisdiction: Habitual Residence)	Henry Setright KC Ruth Kirby KC Harry Langford	[2022] EWFC 132
26/11/2021	T v T & Ors	Frankie Shama Ruth Kirby KC	[2021] EWHC 3231 (Fam)
03/08/2020	RE M (A Child) (2020)	Teertha Gupta KC Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards Ralph Marnham	[2020] EWCA Civ 922

02/03/2020	A (A Child) (Inherent Jurisdiction: Parens Patriae, FMPO And Passport Orders) (Rev 2) (2020)	Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC	[2020] EWHC 451 (Fam)
27/02/2020	Re A (A Child) (Inherent Jurisdiction: FMPO	Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC	[2020] EWHC 451 (Fam)
12/11/2019	PQ v RS & Others (Legal Parenthood: Written Consent)	Dorothea Gartland KC Ruth Kirby KC	[2019] EWFC 65
12/04/2019	MB v TB (Art 13 Alleged Risk of Oppressive Litigation) (2019)	Paul Hepher Ruth Kirby KC	[2019] EWHC 1019 (Fam)
27/03/2019	RJ v Tigipko (2019)	Michael Gration KC Sam King KC Ruth Kirby KC Mark Jarman KC	[2019] EWHC 448 (Fam)
19/07/2018	A Local Authority v (1) A Mother (2) A Father (3) A, B, C, D & E (By their Children's guardian) (2018)	Sam King KC Ruth Kirby KC Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 1841 (Fam)
06/06/2018	Re IM sub nom Secretary of State for the Home Department v (1) LG (2) IM (3) JM (2018)	Ruth Kirby KC Chris Barnes	
10/05/2018	Re J (Children) (2018)	Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards	[2018] EWCA Civ 1372
13/11/2017	A Local Authority v M & 5 Ors (2017)	Ruth Kirby KC Private: Zoe Taylor	[2017] EWHC 2851 (Fam)
06/03/2017	Re SU and SA (Children) (2017)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2017] EWHC 441 (Fam)
12/10/2016	X (Number 3 : Division of Religious Festivals) (2016)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2016] EWFC B91
25/08/2016	F v (1) M (2) C (By Her Children's Guardian) (2016)	Ruth Kirby KC	
01/07/2016	A Local Authority v M & 5 Ors (2016)	Ruth Kirby KC Private: Zoe Taylor	[2016] EWHC 1599 (Fam)
09/05/2015	X (Number 2 : Orthodox Schools) (2015)	Ruth Kirby KC	EWFC B237
27/01/2015	Re M (Republic of Ireland) (Child's Objections) (Joinder of Children as Parties to Appeal) [2015]	Christopher Hames KC Ruth Kirby KC Dorothea Gartland KC	[2015] 2 FLR 1074; [2015] EWCA Civ 26
02/04/2013	SK v (1) HD (2) SD (3) UD (4) MD (5) FD (2013)	Ruth Kirby KC Private: Hassan Khan	[2013] EWHC 796 (Fam); [2014] Fam Law 22
28/11/2011	J v J (Relinquishment of Jurisdiction) (2011)	Henry Setright KC Ruth Kirby KC Michael Gration KC	[2012] 1 FLR 1259 : [2012] Fam Law 399; [2011] EWHC 3255 (Fam)

13/10/2011	C (Care: Contact)	Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards	[2012] 2 FCR 325; [2011] EWCA Civ 1774
08/07/2011	H v H (Jurisdiction to grant Wardship)	Ruth Kirby KC Teertha Gupta KC	[2012] 1 FLR 23; [2011] EWCA Civ 796
21/06/2011	A v P (Habitual Residence)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2012] 1 FLR 125; [2011] EWHC 1530 (Fam)
25/05/2010	Re J (A Child) (2010)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2010] EWCA Civ 946
10/07/2009	Re C (Children) (2009)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2009] EWCA Civ 959; (2010) 1 FLR 895
18/05/2009	Re Stedman [2009]	Ruth Kirby KC	[2009] EWHC 935 (Fam); [2009] 2 FLR 852
11/02/2009	Re H (Abduction) [2009]	Teertha Gupta KC Mark Jarman KC Ruth Kirby KC	[2009] 2 FLR 1513; [2009] EWHC 1735 (Fam)
31/07/2006	Susan Wilkinson V (1) Celia Kitzinger (2) Attorney-General (Respondents) & Lord Chancellor (Intervener) (2006)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2006] EWHC 2022 (Fam); (2007) 1 FLR 295 : (2006) HRLR 36 : (2007) UKHRR 164 : Times, August 21, 2006
12/04/2006	Susan Wilkinson (Petitioner) V (1) Celia Kitzinger (2) Attorney-General (Respondents) & Lord Chancellor (Intervenor) (2006)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2006] EWHC 835 (Fam); (2006) 2 FLR 397
16/03/2006	Re X (A Child) sub nom Re X (Emergency Protection Orders) (2006)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2006] EWHC 510 (Fam); (2006) 2 FLR 701 : Times, April 21, 2006
27/02/2006	Re U (Care Proceedings: Criminal Conviction: Refusal to give Evidence) (2006)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2006] EWHC 372 (Fam); (2006) 2 FLR 690
16/12/2005	Re K sub nom A Local Authority v N & Ors (2005)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2005] EWHC 2956 (Fam); (2007) 1 FLR 399
21/09/2004	Re S (Children) (2004)	Ruth Kirby KC	[2004] EWCA Civ 1397; (2005) 1 FLR 469